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HONGKONG TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH, 1891.

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HONGKONG TRADING CO., LTD.

WHITE BUCKSKIN TENNIS SHOES.

RUSSIAN LEATHER TENNIS SHOES.

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HONGKONG TRADING CO., LIMITED.

QUEEN'S ROAD AND DUDDELL STREET.

GOLD MEDALS & SILVER MEDALS
By Appointment.K U H N & C O.
HONKOKO, YOKOHAMA.
(Established, 1869.)THE ORIENTAL FINE ART DEPOT
Known as the Oldest and most reliable Estab-
lishment in the East.
Hongkong, 9th February, 1891.

[1874]

BROWN, JONES & CO.,
No. 48, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL,
HONGKONG.ITALIAN AND AMERICAN MARBLE
MONUMENTS AND MEMORIALS
IN STOCK.A SMILED EUROPEAN STONE MASON
SUPERINTENDENTS ALL WORKS
PROMPT ATTENTION TO ORDERS FROM
COASTAL PORTS.

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

Hongkong, 7th August, 1891.

[1874]

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VEGETABLE AND FLOWER SEEDS,
Season 1891-92.THE First Shipment of our supply of
GARDEN SEEDSfor this season has arrived and we are now pre-
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execution. Complete Catalogues with concise
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Catalogues the Seeds are Marginally Numbered
in English and Chinese, and when ordering it is
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kinds required.Orders from one person, of from 80 to 800,
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extra 5% discount.

CLAY'S FERTILIZER.

A high class fertilizer for pot plants and for
use in the garden generally. It supplies natural
nourishment to the soil, and assists the process
of assimilation, thereby aiding the plants to
attain to their full size, vigour and beauty.

Sold in Tin containing 10lb each....\$1.50.

Bags.....28lb.....\$4.00.

Directions for use are given on the label.

RAISONNE'S "NEW PARIS"

LAWN MOWERS.

The best and cheapest machines in the market;
for sale at manufacturers' prices.

A. S. WATSON CO., LIMITED.

THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

ESTABLISHED, A.D. 1841.

Hongkong, 24th August, 1891.

[1874]

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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should be addressed to "The Editor."The Agents (Messrs. Butterfield & Swire)
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Telegraphic Address Press. Telephone No. 12.

BIRTH.

On the 14th instant, at "Wellburn," the Park, the
wife of Mr. DANEY, of a son.

[1874]

The Daily Press.

Hongkong, SEPTEMBER 15TH, 1891.

[1874]

At the meeting of the Ceylon Legislative
Council on the 26th ultmo, the Governor in
his opening speech of the session made cer-
tain references to matters connected with
crime which may furnish useful suggestions
for legislation in this Colony. Sir ARTHUR
HARVOCOCK has apparently no sentimental
objection to flogging as a punishment for
petty crime. He has, however, been strongly
impressed with the necessity of empowering
Police Magistrates to inflict whipping for
theft of prodigious products. This form of
punishment is indeed prescribed in the Cey-
lon Penal Code, but under the procedure of
the Criminal Procedure Code a Magistrate
cannot inflict flogging except on offenders under
sixteen years of age. Sir ARTHUR HARVOCOCK
has therefore caused a Bill to be drafted
on the lines of the special legislation adopted
in 1887 for putting down cattle stealing in
the North-Western Province. The quickly ex-
tending cultivation of cacao and other products
and the daily increasing prevalence of theoffence which it is sought to provide against,
render it necessary, he says, that more ade-
quate protection should be afforded to planters,
both native and European, than the law
now gives them. He does not state whether
he has secured the assent of the Secretary
of State to the introduction of such a Bill,
but it is unlikely that he would venture on
an innovation of the kind without being
sure of his ground. And if the Secretary
of State is willing to sanction flogging for
petty offences in Ceylon he can hardly have
any logical ground for refusing to sanction it
in this Colony. It is true we have no
prodigious products to protect in this Colony,
but petty larceny is very prevalent, and quite
recently a correspondent signing himself
"Householder" sent us a letter com-
plaining of the sacking of empty houses of
all their fittings. If flogging would prove
more deterrent to this class of crime than
imprisonment we would be glad to see it introduced.
The Chinese in their own country
are governed by the bamboo, and rightly
or wrongly are supposed to be very amenable
to its persuasive influence. Before you can
flog your thief, however, you must first catch
him, and in his own interest he takes care
not to commit his depredations under the
eye of the constable. As regards crime of
the description in question we must confess
we have more confidence in the efficient
police of the city as a means of suppression
than in the deterrent nature of the
punishment, whether imprisonment or flogging,
inflicted on the small proportion of
thieves who are maladroit enough to let
themselves be caught.The second reference to crime in Sir
ARTHUR HARVOCOCK's speech is of a different
character, and shows that if he appreciates
the value of the lash it is at the same time
not impossible to the advantages of mild
treatment as applied to first offenders. His
attention, he says, having been drawn to the
evil consequences which arise from the
indiscriminate committee of first offenders to
prison for comparatively trivial offences, and
of the absence of any provision in the laws
enabling a Judge or Magistrate to defer
passing sentence and to allow a first offender
to be at liberty on probation or good
behaviour for a certain period, and thus to
avoid the stigma of a committal to prison
and the contamination which must necessarily
arise from association with habitual
criminals, he has caused to be prepared a
Draft Bill on the lines of the Probation-of-
First Offenders Act, 1887. The object of the
Ordinance is to provide for cases where the
reformation of persons convicted of first
offences may, by reason of the trivial nature
of the offence or of the offender's youth, be
brought about without the degradation of
imprisonment. It provides that in any
case in which a person is convicted of an
offence punishable with not more than three
years' imprisonment, and no previous con-
viction is proved against him, if it appears
to the Court that regard had been had to
the youth, or to the character and antecedents
of the offender, or to the trivial nature of
the offence, or to any extenuating circum-
stances under which the offence was com-
mitted, it is expedient to release the offender
on probation; the Court may, instead of sen-
tencing him at once to punishment, order
release on him entering into a recognizance
to appear and receive judgment when called
upon, and in the meantime to be of good
behaviour. In our local Magistrates
Ordinance it is provided that if upon
the hearing of a charge the Magistrate
thinks that though the charge is proved
the offence was in the particular case
of trifling a nature that it is inexpedient to
inflict any punishment or any other than
a nominal punishment, he may dismiss the
complainant or information or may discharge
the defendant conditionally on his giving se-
curity to appear for sentence when called
upon or to be of good behaviour. This, it
will be observed, makes the triviality of the
offence the only ground on which a Magis-
trate is justified in discharging a guilty person
without punishment, whereas the Ceylon
Bill is designed with the view of giving a
first offender another chance in certain cases
though his offence may not be of a nature
to be described as trifling. How to prevent
first offenders sinking into the ranks of
habitual criminals is a problem which every
Government ought to do its best to solve,
and as an effort in this direction the Ceylon
Bill appears to have much to commend it.There were 1,982 visitors to the City Hall
Museum last week, of whom 142 were Europeans.A Madrid telegram to the Consulate states
that the new Governor-General of the Philippines
will embark at Barcelona on the 13th inst.The Agents (Messrs. Butterfield & Swire)
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